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ACTION RP-10

INFO	LOG-00	AF-01	AGRE-00	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00
	DOYE-00	DS-00	EB-01	EUR-01	HA-09	H-01	INRE-00
	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02
	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-00
	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	FMP-00

/059W

-----8B0209 291100Z /38

P 291057Z DEC 92
FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4930
INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
USDAO LILONGWE MI
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GM

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 07299

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINS, PREF, ELTN, RW, UG
SUBJECT: ICRC REPORTS THAT RPF THREATS ARE CONTINUING
TO HOLD UP FOOD FOR RWANDA, SEES "STARVATION" APPROACH
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REF: KAMPALA 7158 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL)

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: FRANCIS JUNOZ, THE CHIEF ICRC DELEGATE IN KAMPALA, REPORTED THAT ICRC SHIPMENTS OF UGANDAN GRAINS TO RWANDA ARE CONTINUING TO BE HELD UP BY THINLY-VEILED THREATS BY THE RPF TO DISRUPT TRAFFIC ON THE KAGITUMBA ROUTE. HE SAID THAT THE DISPLACED POPULATION WAS ALREADY HUNGRY, AND "STARVATION" COULD COME QUICKLY.

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END SUMMARY

3. POLOFF CONTACTED ICRC CHIEF DELEGATE FRANCIS JUNOZ ON DECEMBER 29 FOR A STATUS REPORT ON ICRC EFFORTS TO SUPPLY FOOD PURCHASED IN UGANDA TO RWANDA. JUNOZ SAID THAT THE SITUATION REMAINED DEADLOCKED BECAUSE OF RPF REFUSAL TO CLEAR TRAFFIC ON THE ROUTE VIA KAGITUMBA. HE SAID THAT BECAUSE THE RPF DID NOT CONTROL TERRITORY ALONG THE KAGITUMBA ROUTE, IT REFUSED TO GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF CONVOYS ON THAT ROAD. THE RPF HAD ADVISED ICRC THAT "YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED" NOT TO TAKE THE ROUTE. JUNOZ SAID THAT ICRC WAS TAKING THE THREAT SERIOUSLY, AS IT WAS NOT CONFIDENT THAT THE RPF COULD NOT STRIKE AT ITS VEHICLES ON THE KAGITUMBA ROUTE. THE RPF HAD AGREED TO CLEAR TRAFFIC VIA KATUNA, BUT IT WOULD TAKE TIME TO VERIFY THE SUITABILITY OF THAT ROAD AND EVALUATE THE KATUNA BRIDGE FOR USE BY THE ICRC'S TRUCKS.

4. ACCORDING TO JUNOZ, THE RPF WAS THE ONLY OBSTACLE
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TO GETTING A CONVOY UNDERWAY. CLEARANCE FOR THE PROPOSED FOOD SHIPMENT "CAME VERY SMOOTHLY" FROM THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT SIDE, AND THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT HAD POSED NO FORMAL OBJECTION TO THE SUPPLY OF GRAIN FROM UGANDA. (HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT "RUMORS HAD BEEN CIRCULATED" THAT THE UGANDANS WOULD POISON THE FOOD.) JUNOZ STRESSED THE URGENCY OF PROVIDING FOOD FROM UGANDA, AS ICRC STOCKS IN KIGALI WERE "TOTALLY EMPTY" AND TRANSPORT VIA TANZANIA HAD PROVED PROHIBITIVELY SLOW AND EXPENSIVE. JUNOZ WAS ADAMANT THAT THERE WAS THE THREAT OF OUTRIGHT STARVATION. "THE SITUATION IS SERIOUS," HE SAID; SINCE SHORTAGES HAD BEEN PRESENT FOR SOME TIME, "STARVATION WON'T TAKE LONG."

CARSON

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